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For School Directors. Three Years—PETER NEILLS, Eleventh ward. Three Years—D. I. PHILLIPS, Fifth ward.

It is becoming clear that the Crawford county system among Republicans will have the enthusiastic approval of the Democrats.

Concerning Currency Reform. If the prediction of some observers shall prove true that the next great dividing issue in American politics will be upon the question whether the government itself shall assume control wholly of the issuing of paper money or remit that function wholly to the banks; then, indeed, will there be a radical realignment, such perhaps as has not before been seen.

Those Havana Riots. The power of the captain general of Cuba to suppress the recent rioting in Havana has been demonstrated. But the sentiment which that rioting discloses bodes ill for Blanco and for Spain.

It is understood that many of Senator Quay's closest friends are advising him, as a matter of self protection, to disavow all connection with and responsibility for the revolutionary tactics of the Newitt element in Philadelphia. They perceive in that bolt the portent of coming trouble in the state at large and desire him to keep out of the storm center.

Under these circumstances, it seems not unreasonable to expect that our government must soon take more than a passive cognizance of the situation thus presented. The time is near when the conditions conjuncturally outlined in the last annual message of President Cleveland will prevail; that is, a struggle so hopeless of any other result than the extinction of Cuba's population resources that it will become an act of broad humanity. The fact that President McKinley has affirmed his intention of enforcing such intervention should the necessity for it appear places the whole problem on a basis justifying delay only while there remains a reasonable hope of a satisfactory adjustment between the principals in the conflict. The indications are that that hope is fast being extinguished.

Spain can play just one more card. She can substitute for the present sham overture of autonomy a scheme of autonomy in fact. Whether this will be her next move will depend upon whether the Sagasta ministry can much longer maintain itself in power. Evidence on this point is not reassuring and the probabilities of early American intervention are therefore greater now than ever before.

The courts of Brooklyn have refused to allow bills for sundries for the Thorn jury. The sundry bills included \$356.15 for wines and \$238.40 for cigars consumed during the trial of the murderer of Goldensuppe. If this spirit of retrenchment is to continue, jury duty in greater New York will soon become a very commonplace and tame occupation.

It is noticeable that neither Colonel Stone personally nor any accredited representative has yet denied that if elected governor the Allegheny congressman would approve the Andrews "Lexow" expense account should it come to him with the legislature's approval. Senator Andrews is not running Stone's campaign for his health.

Colonel Watterson now admits that the Palmer-Buckner movement was a mistake. In other words, sound money Democrats, so long as Bryanism threatened, should line up to a man with the Republican party, the country's only effective protection against political chaos.

Having been fairly whipped the thing for Hanna's Ohio enemies to do now is to take their medicine and say nothing. The attempt to nag at Hanna in small-dog fashion will simply add to Hanna's popularity.

A riot in Havana which would force the administration to take an aggressive position in Cuba would be about the most welcome new year's present which fate could offer to the American people.

Senator Hanna asserts that he now proposes to begin a war of extermination on traitors. That is one cause in which he will have the unanimous cooperation of all believers in fair play.

The public man who does not want to go on record as a chattering idiot will do well to avoid the modern journalistic interviewer.

Again the war with Spain seems to have been caused by smoke on the brain of the overworked and overtruthful correspondent.

W. J. Bryan appears to be developing into an ideal specimen of the "has been."

accredited to her capital a minister plenipotentiary who was not deemed qualified to cope with the delicate duties of the Chinese mission? The official at Rio de Janeiro may not possess the sensitiveness on points of honor common to people of Spanish descent, and therefore they may be entirely willing to extend the glad hand to Mr. Bryan despite his immaturity in matters diplomatic; but to go on the assumption as to take a serious risk. Suppose they should decline to consider their capital as a kindergarten for the instruction of fledglings in America's foreign service; what then? Could we really blame them?

In this matter we fear that our amiable president has failed to exercise the good judgment that has characterized by far the larger number of his selections for diplomatic honors. He seems to have listened too much to personal friends of Mr. Bryan and too little to the promptings of that innate sense of the proprieties which must have told him that a man unfit for the Chinese mission is unfit to represent the government of the United States anywhere else on earth.

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The power of the captain general of Cuba to suppress the recent rioting in Havana has been demonstrated. But the sentiment which that rioting discloses bodes ill for Blanco and for Spain.

The ability of Spain to sustain her sovereignty in Cuba with everything serene in her own household would be problematical in view of the admitted strength of the insurrection. When Weyler was in command there were no riots in Havana and no serious disaffection among the Spanish volunteers and civilians; in short, Spain had then only one enemy in front to deal with, yet Weyler failed. Blanco, with less than a third of Weyler's military strength, has to face not simply the insurgents and the horrors of Weyler's concentration policy, but also the opposition which is gradually gaining boldness within the Spanish lines—an opposition made desperate by declining profits, scarcity of pay and supplies and a premonition of the inevitable. No greater problem has confronted any commander in recent years, and its difficulties, it can easily be seen, are not decreasing.

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second term but by good work and fidelity to convictions he has earned one and it requires small gift of prophecy to foresee that he can have it if he wants it.

The Tribune acknowledges with pleasure the receipt from the Troy, N. Y., Times of an excellent calendar—one of the finest and best seen this year.

Senator Foraker's congratulations to Hanna did not reach the telegraph wires.

The cold wave is certainly coming. It struck Columbus on Wednesday.

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horescope Drawn by Ajacebus, The Tribune Astrologer.

A child born on this day will notice that the cattle on a thousand hills are likely to fall into the hands of the milk combine.

The re-election of Wade Finn to the office of tax collector renders further search for a knock-out comedian for city hall unnecessary.

The ghouliah glee of the Scranton Times whenever the closing of a laboring industry is reported, seems out of place in a paper that claims to be the workman's friend.

Failure to shape public opinion is not always the fault of the educators. The best of writers have often found public opinion blameworthy.

It is not necessary in many instances to give away a really good newspaper.

Ever since the beginning of German aggressions upon China, the London press has teemed with suggestions of an alliance between England and America which should safeguard British interests in the far East, and restore to England the position of primacy in world politics which was hers under the astute and audacious statesmanship of Beaconsfield. No doubt as to the willingness of Americans to pull British chestnuts out of the fire seems to have occurred to the candid pundits. They apparently consider that the honor of an alliance with the British empire would be ample recompense for our abandonment of our traditional policy and embroilment with powers with which we are now on friendly terms.

Thus the Spectator, once notable as a conservative and influential organ of intelligent opinion, complacently assumes in its latest issue that the United States is ready to support the British demand that no exclusive privileges shall be granted to Germany or any other power by China, and remarks that "nothing short of a direct menace or aggression would tempt any combination of continental powers to face the whole Anglo-Saxon race unitedly."

By George! The suggestion of an alliance between this country and England would hold in its hands the balance of the world. But it is sheer nonsense for English pundits to talk to the American people as if they were willing to enter upon such an arrangement. Nothing is farther from their thoughts at present. In fact, they are not so much as to support the British demand that no exclusive privileges shall be granted to Germany or any other power by China, and remarks that "nothing short of a direct menace or aggression would tempt any combination of continental powers to face the whole Anglo-Saxon race unitedly."

The fundamental consideration which guides the action of the men who conduct the government of the United States is the protection of American interests and the maintenance of American rights without regard to the designs of Great Britain. It may be very hard for contented Britons to believe this, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that the interests of the British metropolis could bring themselves to understand it, they would not print so much nonsense.

Abolish the Seed Humberg. From the Times-Herald. In spite of popular denunciation and protest the ancient swindle known as the free seed distribution will bob up serenely as usual at the present session of congress. The agricultural bill which will come up for consideration this month contains an appropriation of \$100,000 for seeds which are to be given away through senators, representatives and the agricultural department. [This item, in fact, has already been approved in the house, but may fall in the senate.]

The original object of the free gift enterprise was doubtless praiseworthy, in that it was designed to introduce new varieties of plants to general use and to secure reports upon their value for public information. The people were perfectly willing to encourage this mild form of paternalism so long as it was used to promote the genuine interests of husbandry. Realizing that all wealth and all prosperity are to be derived from the soil, the encouragement of agriculture has been regarded as a legitimate function of government. But instead of being used for the promotion of husbandry, the free distribution for several years past has been diverted to the promotion of the interests of politicians among the granger constituents. Instead of diversifying and multiplying the products of the soil the free seed fraud is used to make representatives solid with agricultural voters.

A report of the department of agriculture recently declared that "a careful review of the department reports during a decade in which over a million dollars was expended for free seed distribution fails to reveal a single instance of benefit to agriculture attributable to this distribution." The whole system is a fraud on its face. It represents a form of bribery that is a reproach to the government. Congress will never have a better time to abolish it than at the present session when public revenues demand re-

On the Indian Frontier. Corporal Hunt: "We've been starvin' and fightin' and dyin' in this bloody country for weeks, and we've hit all for. I'd like to know? The bloomin' land is all red and hot, and there's nothin' to eat, heep! their own 'ides, we're shootin' holes into."

Private Atkins: "They're a hevin' us lick the bloody haythans into shape so it'll be safe to send missionaries to 'em."

Private Donalson: "No, hit's on account of the hecessary situation. These cusses steals too many sheep across the frontier for 'em to starve easy and natural. Like the people down country, so they have to be fed with a little more."

Orderly Flannigan: "Tis wrong ye all are! It's meself has overheard the inside official information. The Quano was told that some Redskin bears a'comin' to set up these people, an' she says to herself, says she: 'Tis a world tribe they are, and 'tis a poor, wretched country they have, but 'tis for the good of the people on the plains they be, and O! can't not allow the helpless craythurs to be ston up that way. O! for the mother here to teach them what's good for the land, and praise the saints, it's many a long-haired haythans has come to an order-standin' on it wid a slender basset in his ribs."

At the Chinese Court. High Councillor: "Oh, Great Brilliance of China, the English minister is instigating upon going to the dangerous province. He claims it will be an evil thing for him to abandon his journey through fear of bodily harm. He wishes that he could see the soul to become filled with evil is a far greater loss than any injury that could happen to the body. I must at once issue a decree that no German be allowed to enter the drinking shops, dancing gardens, or other places where wickedness can be absorbed. The recompense they demand for injury to their bodies is very great, and if we should be held responsible for damages to a German soul, surely the whole Empire could not pay it."

High Councillor: "It will be a most sensible precaution, but here comes the Grand Mandarin, with his robe and his hat on his head. What new misfortune can have happened?"

Grand Mandarin: "Oh, Son of the Stars, kick me with your golden sandal for I am a bearer of evil news. The calamity presaged by the eclipse has fallen upon us. The English have delivered an ultimatum that there shall be no more special privileges. They demand that all nations be treated alike, and now, whenever a foreigner gets hurt each of the powers must have a seaport. The foreign devils are so venturesome accidents will happen to them, and the supply of seaports is not unlimited. What can we give when they are gone? Kick me again, stamp upon my ignoble head, oh Favored One of the Moon!"

Free Silver. Mr. Ploughshare: "Since they've been in power, the Populists hev done lots for the farmers, but I've always wondered if I had much use for this free silver till yesterday."

Pop Politician: "What occurred yesterday to take the gold dust out of your eyes? Did you read some of my 16 to 1 articles?"

Mr. Ploughshare: "You know silver's been so plenty and cheap they've had to

increasing the size of the coinage? Well, we broke down our wagon and I packed it up on some poles and rails, so's to drag it to town and get it fixed. I throwed in a few dollars to pay the wagonmaker with, and blamed if they didn't smash the whole thing to pieces. Not hevin' any other wagon to carry them in, I hardly knowed what to do, but my boy, Bill, he's a smart one, he get a crowbar and drilled holes through four of them dollars and put 'em on the axles for wheels, and, by gum, they went so well I'm goin' to leave 'em there."

Advice to a Red. Anarchist Hobo: "I don't steal because I want money or property. I hate both, but I swipe everything I can so as to injure the bloated property owners. Takin' their wealth weakens them, don't it? And in that way I help the cause of anarchy, don't I?"

Wandering Willie: "That's so, and if that's the game, I can put yer onto a big scheme. You go to some live town and kills yer man and lies low long enough for the detectives to run up a big bill. Then you instals yer innocent victim of civil life, because you're a poor man. Some softie will be on hand to aid the innocent an' oppressed, and they sends enough lawyers on the case the costs'll run into twenty thousand, and who'll have to stana it, but the tax payers—the bloated property owners? You conbar and drilled holes through them if you was to steal for a lifetime."

OUR CHIEF CONCERN. From the Philadelphia Bulletin. It seems to be impossible for our British cousins to realize that the governmental policy of the United States is inspired by the desire to protect American interests and not by the wish either to serve or to injure Great Britain. When this country passes a stringent protective tariff like the McKinley tariff, it is not the sea that the Monroe doctrine must be respected, as in the case of Venezuela, the London newspapers angrily accuse us of being actuated by violent antipathy to everything that is English. When Englishmen feel in a more friendly mood—especially when their government is in some dilemma and the assistance of the United States would be of immense value—these Journals go to the other extreme.

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